



DROITWICH
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL
REPORT

OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR
1939

INCLUDING THE REPORT OF THE
SANITARY INSPECTOR.

REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1939.

TO THE DROITWICH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit the Annual Report for the year ending 31st December, 1939.

This Report is arranged according to the instructions given in Circular 1961 which was issued by the Ministry of Health in February, 1940.

SECTION A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres) 51,453

Registrar-General's estimate of :

(a) resident population, mid-1939 11,280

(b) average population appropriate to the calculation
of death rates 11,550

Number of inhabited houses (end of 1939) according to

Rate Books 3,705

Rateable value £63,092

Sum represented by One Penny Rate £260 1s. 6d.

The District is mainly agricultural, although a number of workers at the Salt Union Works, Stoke Works, resides within the area.

The following are extracts from the vital statistics for the year :—

Live Births.			M.	F.	Total.
Legitimate	....	....	114	79	193
Illegitimate	....	....	10	6	16
Totals	....	....	124	85	209

Birth-rate per 1000 of Estimated Population (mid-1939) 18.5

Still Births.	M.	F.	Total.
Legitimate	3	4	7
Illegitimate	—	—	—
Totals	3	4	7

Rate per 1000 total (live and still) births 32.2

Deaths.	M.	F.	Total.
All Causes	81	80	161

Death-rate per 1000 of the Estimated Average Population 13.9.

Deaths from puerperal causes :—

	Deaths.	Rate per 1000 total (live and still) births.
Puerperal sepsis	1	4.6
Other Puerperal Causes	—	—
Totals	1	4.6

Death-rate of infants under one year of age :—

All infants per 1000 live births	47.6
Legitimate infants per 1000 legitimate live births	46.4
Illegitimate infants per 1000 illegitimate live births	62.5
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	16
„ „ Measles (all ages)	—
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages)	—
„ „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	2

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Public Health Officers of the Authority.

(a) *Medical.* Dr. Keith Roden was part-time Medical Officer of Health until the 31st March this year, when I was appointed to the post.

(b) *Others.* Mr. Oswald Sharpe, Cert.S.I.B., is a whole-time officer and combines the duties of Sanitary Inspector and

Building Surveyor. Since the outbreak of war, he performed the additional duties of Deputy Billeting Officer and Deputy Chief Executive Officer A.R.P.

Mr. J. Taylor, Cert.S.I.B., holds the appointment of Additional Sanitary Inspector and Building Surveyor.

There has been no change in the services provided by the Laboratory, Ambulance, Nursing, Clinics and Hospitals, which continue to be satisfactory.

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

1. (i) **Water.** The Scheme for the provision of a public water supply in North Claines Parish was completed in the early part of the year, but owing to the outbreak of war, comparatively few properties had availed themselves of the water supply by the end of 1939.

All cases of minor contamination of wells have been dealt with.

- (ii) **Drainage and Sewerage.** The Fernhill Heath Sewerage scheme was completed in the early part of the year, and the majority of the houses in the drainage area have been connected to the sewers.

2. **Rivers and Streams.** No action was necessary during the period under review.

3. (i) **Closet Accommodation.** The Council approved the inauguration of a scheme for the conversion of closets from the conservancy system to the water-carriage system within the area of the new Fernhill Heath Sewerage Scheme. Unfortunately, this scheme was deferred owing to the outbreak of hostilities.

- (ii) **Public Cleansing.** The system for the collection of domestic refuse, put into operation over the whole of the district during 1938, was continued during the year. The method of refuse disposal was by tipping.

The Council did not consider that a salvage scheme was an economical proposition and, although arrangements were made to accept sorted and bundled waste paper, no other system of salvage existed by the end of the year.

- (iii) **Sanitary Inspection of the Area.** The report of the Sanitary Inspector, dealing with the work carried out during the year, is attached.

- (iv) **Shops.** No action was taken under the Shops Act, 1934, during the year.
- (v) **Camping Sites.** There are six licensed camping sites mostly situated near the River Severn and covering an approximate acreage of 35 acres and permitting some 400 moveable dwellings.
- These sites were mainly occupied at week-ends and holiday periods ; and the manner in which the several camps were conducted continued to show improvement.
- (vi) **Smoke Abatement.** It was not found necessary to take any action during the year.
- (vii) **Swimming Baths and Pools.** There is only one privately owned swimming bath in the area and all water samples taken proved satisfactory.
- (viii) **Eradication of Bed-bugs.** Three houses were found to be verminous and in each case disinfection was carried out by the Council by spraying with Zaldecide.
4. **Schools.** The sanitary conditions and water supply at the several schools was satisfactory.

SECTION D.

HOUSING.

1. **Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year.**
 - (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) 129
and number of inspections made for the purpose.... 145
 - (b) Number of dwelling-houses (included above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Consolidated) Regulations, 1925 and 1932 3
and number of inspections made for the purpose 3
 - (c) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation 3
 - (d) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation 116
2. **Remedy of defects without service of formal Notices.**
Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers 114

3. Action under Statutory Powers.

- (a) *Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.*
- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs (or defects remedied) 1
 - (2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—
 - (a) By owners 4
 - (b) By Local Authority in default of owners Nil.
- (b) *Proceedings under Public Health Acts.*
- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied Nil.
 - (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :
 - (a) by the Owner Nil.
 - (b) Local Authority in default of owner Nil.
- (c) *Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of Housing Act, 1936.*
- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made 2
 - (2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders 3
- (d) *Proceedings under Section 12 Housing Act, 1936.*
- (1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made Nil.
 - (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit Nil.

4. Housing Act, 1936, Part IV. Overcrowding.

In order to obtain the necessary details for the Annual Report, it has been the practice to make a postal survey of all known overcrowded houses at the close of each year. This procedure was not followed at the end of 1939, and I am therefore unable to give details ; however, it will be realised that the number of overcrowded houses will have increased owing to the influx of some 500 official evacuees at the beginning of September.

SECTION E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

- (a) **Milk Supply.** Milk Producers' premises have been visited during the year and the samples, taken for bacteriological examination, have proved satisfactory.
- (b) **Meat and other Foods.** The four licensed slaughter-houses were inspected regularly until the outbreak of war in September, when slaughtering was discontinued in the area.
- (c) **Adulterations, etc.** I am indebted to Mr. E. A. Spencer, Chief Inspector of Weights and Measures, for the following information regarding samples taken under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, by his department in this district during the course of the year. Of the 25 samples of milk taken, one was deficient in fat and one contained some added water. Cautions were issued in both instances. Four of the above samples were "appeal to cow."

In addition one sample of groceries was submitted to the County Analyst.

- (d) **Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of Food.** This work is carried out by the County Analyst and Bacteriologist at the County Laboratory, Worcester.

SECTION F.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

A diphtheria immunisation campaign was commenced this year in the Parish of Ombersley, and one hundred and fifty-three children were immunised. The diphtheria prophylactic used was T.A.M. and each child received the three injections at either Ombersley School or Sytchampton School.

The number of children immunised were as follows :—

(a) Pre-school children	....	....	....	36
(b) Ombersley school children	....	....	....	69
(c) Sytchampton school children	....	....	....	48

—
153

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR 1939.

Under the Measles and Whooping Cough Regulations, 1940, which came into operation at the end of October, 1939, Measles and Whooping Cough became notifiable diseases.

Particulars of infectious diseases which occurred during the course of the year (together with those of Measles and Whooping Cough which were notified since October) are shown in the following table.

Disease.	Total Cases Notified.	Cases Admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever	40	27	—
Diphtheria	26	26	2
Paratyphoid Fever	5	5	—
Puerperal Fever	3	2	1
Pneumonia	2	—	—
Erysipelas	1	—	—
*Measles	44	—	—
*Whooping Cough	3	—	—

*Notifiable only from 23rd October, 1939.

An analysis of the total notified cases are tabulated below according to age groups :—

Age Group.	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	Paratyphoid Fever.	Puerperal Fever	Pneumonia.	Erysipelas	Measles.	Whooping Cough.
Under								
1 yr.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1-2	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
2-3	1	—	—	—	—	—	3	1
3-4	4	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
4-5	3	4	—	—	—	—	6	—
5-10	15	10	—	—	1	—	29	—
10-15	8	2	1	1	—	—	4	—
15-20	2	1	2	—	—	—	—	—
20-35	6	5	2	1	—	—	2	—
35-45	—	1	—	1	—	1	—	—
45-65	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Over								
65 yrs.	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—

In April, a party of eighteen school boys, accompanied by two masters, went on a visit to Paris for one week. Soon after their return to the district, five members of the party who were resident in this area, were reported to be suffering from Paratyphoid B. Fever.

The source of infection was undoubtedly derived from abroad and some ice cream was suspected ; nevertheless, water samples were collected from the homes of all the patients and at the school as an additional precaution.

Tuberculosis. The following table gives particulars of new cases of tuberculosis and deaths from the disease in the area during the year :—

Age Periods.	<i>New Cases.</i>				<i>Deaths.</i>			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
15—	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
25—	3	1	—	—	—	—	1	—
35—	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	1
45—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
55—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and over	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Total	7	5	—	1	3	—	1	2

No action was taken in 1939 under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925 (relating to persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis employed in the milk trade) or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936 (relating to the compulsory removal to hospital of persons suffering from tuberculosis).

My thanks are due to Mr. Oswald Sharpe, the Sanitary Inspector, and his staff, and to Dr. S. Chalmers Parry, the Deputy County Medical Officer, for the help they have given me in compiling this Report.

I am, Gentlemen,

You obedient Servant,

A. B. FOLLOWS,

Medical Officer of Health.

DROITWICH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
DROITWICH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

ANNUAL REPORT, 1939.

I beg to submit a Report on the work of the Public Health Department for the year ending the 31st December, 1939.

During the earlier months of the year the Department became more and more involved in Civil Defence matters, and with the outbreak of hostilities in September, Air Raid Precautions and the Government Evacuation Scheme almost completely monopolised the work of the Department, and the further development of Public Health matters came to a standstill.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The following table shews the incidence of infectious diseases in the several parishes :—

Parish	Scarlet Fever	Diph- theria	Para- typhoid Fever	Puer- peral Fever	Pneu- monia	Er p- elas	Measles	Whoop- ing Cough
N. Claines ...	4	2	—	—	—	—	26	—
Crowle ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Dodderhill ...	4	6	—	1	—	—	—	—
Doverdale ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Elmbridge ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Elmley Lovett ...	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hadzor ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hampton Lovett ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hanbury ...	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hartlebury ...	6	2	5	—	2	—	—	—
Himbleton ...	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hindlip ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
Huddington ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Martin								
Hussingtree...	—	1	—	—	—	1	12	—
Oddingley ...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Omersley ...	14	3	—	2	—	—	2	—
St. Martin's (County) ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Salwarpe ...	—	1	—	—	—	—	2	—
Stock & Bradley	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tibberton ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Upton Warren	2	10	—	—	—	—	—	—
Warndon ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Westwood ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals ...	40	26	5	3	2	1	44	3

There was an outbreak of Paratyphoid B amongst pupils of the Queen Elizabeth Grammar School at Hartlebury. Five of the pupils found to be suffering from this disease were actually resident within the Rural District. In all cases the patients had been members of a party that had visited France, and there is little doubt that the origin of this infection was outside this country.

PUBLIC HEALTH AND HOUSING ACTS.

The following is a summary of matters dealt with during the period under review :—

No. of Houses inspected	129
No. of Dwelling-houses found unfit for habitation	3
No. of Dwelling-houses not in all respects fit for habitation	116
No. of defective Dwelling-houses rendered fit after informal action	114
No. of Dwelling-houses in respect of which informal notices were served requiring repairs or defects to be remedied	116
No. of Dwelling-houses rendered fit after formal action	4
No. of Dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	2
No. of Dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	3
No. of Dwelling-houses in respect of which undertakings not to use premises for human habitation were given by owners	2
No. of drains laid or relaid	45
No. of drains trapped, ventilated or repaired	51
No. of obstructed drains dealt with	35
No. of house drains tested	77
No. of insanitary lavatories, sinks, etc., rectified	19
No. of Privy or pail conversions, including additional water-closets	13
No. of defective water-closets, etc., remedied	7
No. of defective or insanitary cesspools dealt with	12
No. of new drainage schemes dealt with	7
No. of offensive accumulations dealt with	1
Pollution of watercourses dealt with	6
No. of ditches, etc., cleaned out	7
Keeping of animals dealt with	2
Infested premises dealt with	3
Overcrowded houses dealt with	3

The licensed camping sites, mostly situated near the River Severn, were again occupied during holiday week-ends and were conducted in a satisfactory manner.

During the year six licences were renewed, two new licences were granted, and one application for a licence was refused. The total dwellings permitted at the end of the year was 410, on 8 different sites.

OVERCROWDING.

Since the coming into operation of the Housing Act, 1936, it has been the practice to review the position of each overcrowded house at the end of the year. This review was not made in December, 1939, though from the general information available in the Department it may safely be assumed that, due to war conditions, overcrowding has not decreased.

HOUSING (RURAL WORKERS) ACTS.

During the year 7 cottages were reconditioned under the Housing (Rural Workers) Acts, and schemes were approved in respect of 4 other cottages.

MILK AND DAIRIES.

No. of Registered Dairy Farms	....	....	166
No. of Registered Producers	....	....	144
No. of Registered Retailers	....	....	71
No. of Milking Cows (approximately)	....	2677	

The following Table shows the number of Licences issued under the Milk (Special Designations) Orders 1936 and 1938, on 1st January, 1940, by the County Council for Accredited and Tuberculin tested Milks, as compared with previous years :—

	1935.	1936.	1937.	1938.	1939.	1940.
No. of Production and Bottling Licences	2	4	4	4	3	3
No. of Production Licences	—	19	23	25	31	29

From the details of the Licences granted on 1st January, 1940, it is noted that approximately 14 per cent of the Accredited and Tuberculin-tested milk producers in the County are within this area.

The following Licences were issued by this Council during the year under the Milk (Special Designations) Orders, 1936 and 1938 :—

One licence to "Pasteurise" milk.

Two supplementary licences for the sale of "Pasteurised" milk.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS: SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

The 4 licensed Slaughterhouses in the district were regularly inspected until the outbreak of war, when slaughtering in the area was discontinued.

The following is the approximate number of animals killed in the licensed slaughterhouses during the year:—

Cattle.	Calves.	Sheep.	Pigs.	Total.
114	16	775	195	1100

There were 7 licences in force during the year for slaughtermen, under the Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

The sewerage and sewage disposal works owned by the Council have received regular supervision throughout the period under review.

The scheme for the provision of sewerage facilities within the Parish of North Claines was completed in the early part of the year. The checking of the existing drainage arrangements to the properties in the area entailed a considerable amount of work, and resulted in the majority of the premises being connected to the new sewers.

The supervision of the new outfall works was carried out by the Department, and I am able to report that the same are working satisfactorily.

The provision of Sewerage and Sewage Disposal Schemes to serve Dodderhill, Upton Warren, Ombersley and Hartlebury were further considered, and the Council's Consulting Engineer was instructed to prepare a scheme for submission to the Ministry of Health in respect of Hartlebury. On the outbreak of war, the Council decided that such proposals should be deferred until more favourable conditions.

WATER SUPPLY.

The scheme for the provision of a public water supply in North Claines Parish was completed at the beginning of this year, and the Council commenced supplying water as from 1st April.

The work of supervising the Council's water scheme was carried out through the Council's Public Health Department; 382 properties were receiving a supply by the end of the year, including 275 premises receiving a supply from mains purchased by the Council from the City of Worcester.

The Council appointed one Water Inspector to carry out the maintenance of the Booster Plant, meter reading and waste-water inspections. Byelaws were also adopted and confirmed by the Ministry of Health.

The conversion of closets from the conservancy system to the water carriage system was also approved, but the outbreak of hostilities prevented this from being put into operation.

The East Worcestershire Waterworks Company's water main is available in the Parishes of Dodderhill and Upton Warren, the water supply in the remainder of the district being derived from wells.

The following is a summary of matters dealt with in relation to water supply during the period under review :—

No. of wells sunk	....	....	....	....	4
No. of wells cleansed and repaired	....	....	....	....	14
No. of wells closed	....	....	....	....	2
No. of houses supplied from waterworks	....	....	....	....	107
No. of samples submitted for analysis	....	....	....	....	28
No. of houses with contaminated or deficient water supplies dealt with	....	....	....	....	21

SCAVENGING.

A system of Dry Domestic Refuse collection was in operation throughout the Rural District. The Council contract for the hire of suitable vehicles and employ their own labour, the whole of the work being carried out under the supervision of this department.

The following is a summary of the work done during the year ending 31st December, 1939 :—

No. of houses from which refuse was removed	....	....	....	....	3550
No. of privies cleansed	....	....	....	....	280
No. of ashpits cleansed	....	....	....	....	190
No. of Houses from which refuse is removed at					
(a) Fortnightly intervals	....	....	....	....	1632
(b) Monthly intervals	....	....	....	....	812
(c) Quarterly intervals	....	....	....	....	1106

NEW BUILDINGS.

During the year, plans for 461 new buildings were deposited and dealt with, the number of houses erected and completed being 34.

The development of a further 79 acres was considered during the year, making a total of 2196 acres since the Town and Country Planning (General Interim Development) Order, 1933, came into operation in 1935. The Council had granted permission for the development of 1094 acres by the end of the year.

In addition, a further extension to the Council's Offices and the erection of a Workshop and Store for joint use in connection with the new sewerage works and water mains were carried out by the Department.

In conclusion, I would like to take this opportunity of expressing my thanks to the Officers of the Council for their help and assistance throughout the period under review.

I am, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

OSWALD SHARPE, Cert.S.I.B., A.R.San.I.,

Sanitary Inspector and Building Surveyor.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,

RURAL COUNCIL OFFICES,

DROITWICH.

